GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3865
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
RESEARCH IN HERBS
JASKAUR MEENA;RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether efforts have been made to find out the rare and precious herbs stipulated in various books on Ayurveda;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the research made in regard to the medicinal values of the herbs and the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)to(d):The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha (CCRAS), Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM and Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) have been collecting medicinal plants including herbs for studying their properties to further develop drugs for Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani & Homoeopathy Systems which depend primarily on medicinal plants as raw material. These Research Councils have identified about 1.5 lakh specimens of plants over the years.The drugs developed by the Research Councils of Indian Systems of Medicine are used for treating various diseases and the main achievements of the research done have addressed areas like malaria, diabetes, epilepsy, psoriasis, fistula-in-ano, arthritis, neurological disorders, filariasis and vitiligo. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is conducting research on medicinal and aromatic plants at 11 research centres located in different parts of country. Further, ICAR has established a National Research Centre on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants at Anand, Gujarat also.Their main research activity is focussed on the improvement of the quality of Germplasm of medicinal plants and development of Agro-techniques of certain precious herbs. National Gene Banks have been set up at Lucknow, New Delhi, Thruvananthapuram and Jammu for collection, conservation and characterisation of medicinal and aromatic plants including those that are rare, threatened or endangered or being used in the traditional systems. The efforts of these organisations interalia aim at preservation of the species through research and advanced technology, improving the output and bioactivity of the plants, and formulation of new plants based products.